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Downham Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1956

Including the Report of the Public Health Inspector
(MR. G. S. SENNITT, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.INST.P.C.)

Dr. G. B. HOPKINS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm. D.P.H.

ARTHUR WATSON, DOWNHAM MARKET

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:—

Chairman: Mr. H. G. Teverson

Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. W. Thornhill

Mr. W. Addison	Col. E. R. Pratt
Mr. F. C. Baddock	Mr. S. J. Proctor
Mr. W. H. Bentley	Mr. S. A. Sampson
Mr. A. J. Blott	Mr. F. Starling
Mr. A. Dye	Mr. S. F. L. Warner
Mr. H. Gates	Mr. G. J. T. Wells
Mr. F. Green	Mr. R. R. Wilde
Mr. M. L. Hutson	Mr. E. J. Wright
Rev. I. G. Jones	Mr. G. G. Wright
Mr. H. Leonard	

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:—

Medical Officer of Health—

Dr. G. B. HOPKINS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural District Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector—

G. S. SENNITT, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

G. L. FIELD, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to the Health Department—

J. R. OSLER

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE.

DOWNHAM MARKET.

June, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Downham Rural District Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the course of the year reference was made to the characteristic method of storing household refuse in your district which takes the form of old boxes or tins, rarely having a lid, so that refuse becomes wet and rots, and is an attraction for flies and rats. Blowflies breed on particles of meat and many are enabled to emerge as adult flies after removal to an open tip, constituting a source of nuisance to residents nearby. It is regretted that the appeal to householders to procure dustbins produced little response, and indeed it would appear that Council tenants believe, rightly or wrongly, that the Council should provide dustbins. While holding this view they are unlikely to provide themselves and large numbers of Council houses continue to set a bad example throughout the district.

Elsewhere in the county where the local authority provides bins to council tenants, little difficulty has been experienced in persuading private householders to follow suit, and it would appear worthwhile to consider provision of dustbins for a small annual maintenance charge under powers which already exist. Suitable bins would make the refuse collectors work easier, cleaner and safer, and would minimise the attraction of refuse to flies and rats and militate against dissemination of diseases which these pests can carry.

There are in the district an abnormally high number of problem families, some of whom are unlikely to be rescued from the squalor in which they exist except by full scale residential training and rehabilitation such as is available at a few centres in this country. These centres require prior assurance that such families will be offered accommodation on their return, a reasonable condition bearing in mind the waste of time and money if the family have no adequate accommodation to encourage a genuine effort to keep respectable following return to ordinary life.

Some, however, of these families remain in the category of problem, or pre-problem families largely owing to the desperately poor accommodation in which they live, and adequate housing is here the main and most profitable form of rehabilitation. It is doubly unfortunate that there remains such pressure on re-housing needs, especially in some villages, that deep antagonism would be aroused if these families were given any precedence. Meanwhile, many children are being reared in conditions which are less than their heritage in this country and age, and one wonders what standard of citizenship they will attain in adulthood, and what problems they will perpetuate into the future.

There were several outbreaks and suspected outbreaks of anthrax during the year. This disease is highly infective for man and beast and can kill with alarming suddenness. It is essential to warn all those who may have been in contact with an anthrax carcase of the risks run and the steps to take. This can consume a great deal of your public health inspector's time, and it is in the interests both of efficiency and economy that your medical officer of health should obtain the earliest possible confirmation of animal infection. This matter remains as it was on the occasion of my reports to your public health committee.

There were during the year a few complaints of the smell, and alleged taste, of chlorine in piped water supplies. Though most of the supply is derived from deep boreholes and is safe at source, possibilities of contamination exist during distribution to householders. Moreover, a significant quantity of water is now taken from a local river which, in common with most rivers in this

country, is sewage polluted. No fears need be entertained on this score while the present purification and chlorination methods are employed, but it is vital that the water should be distributed with a minute amount of chlorine in it, and occasional harmless smells are unavoidable and a very small price to pay for safe water. Despite the popular belief to the contrary it is very dubious indeed if water which noticeably smells of chlorine has in fact any taste attributable to the minute amounts of chlorine present, the functions of taste and smell being notoriously difficult to differentiate between, especially in the case of such a pungent substance in such minute proportions. Any chlorine present in water certainly does not survive boiling so that complaints of tea being spoiled by chlorinated water may safely be taken with the proverbial grain of salt (which chemically, is a compound of chlorine).

The death rate for your district has again closely approximated the rate for all rural districts in the past few years. The figure should not be compared with the national or county figures since these are weighted by adverse conditions peculiar to towns and cities which the inhabitants of rural areas are spared, for example, concentrations of smoke, or of slums. Rural England has its slum dwellings and they take a toll of health, but at least they have the advantage of being scattered.

G. B. HOPKINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

**LOCAL BYELAWS, etc. in operation in the Rural District of Downham
containing provision relating to Health.**

	<i>Operating from</i>
1. BUILDING BYELAWS made by the Council—	12/12/53
2. CLEAN FOOD BYELAWS made by the Council—	14/8/50
3. BYELAWS as to the Sanitary Condition and Management of Private Slaughterhouses made by the Council—.....	1/2/57
4. BYELAWS made by the Wisbech and District Water Board for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or con- tamination of water supplied by them and REGULATIONS to be read in conjunction therewith—	30/5/55
5. BYELAWS as to Good Rule and Government made by the Norfolk County Council—	1/6/55
6. BYELAWS made in relation to the Employment of Children by the Norfolk County Council—	1/12/49
7. BYELAWS as to Gates across and adjoining Highways— ..	29/11/34
8. BYELAWS relating to the wearing of collars by dogs and the Norfolk (Control of Dogs) REGULATIONS, 1925—	No date specified
9. BYELAWS and REGULATIONS relating to Nursing Homes made by the Norfolk County Council—	No date specified

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1956

Area (in acres)	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census)	19,962
Population, 1951 (Census)	24,508
Estimated Population, 1956	24,190
Estimated number of separate Dwellings occupied 1956	6,700
Rateable Value, 1956	£146,773
Product of a Penny Rate, 1956	£585

LIVE BIRTHS	418			Rate 19.7		
	Total	Male	Female	Downham Rural	Rate England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	396	198	198			
Illegitimate	22	8	14			
	<hr/> 418	<hr/> 206	<hr/> 212	19.7	15.7	15.31

STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)						
	Total	Male	Female	Downham Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	11	7	4			
Illegitimate	1	1	—			
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 4	27.9	23.0	21.54

DEATHS (all causes)				Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Downham Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County
	215	111	104	10.3	11.7	12.07

DEATHS (from Puerperal causes)

Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000 live births)

	Total	Male	Female	Downham Rural	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	7	2	5			
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 5	16.8	23.8	18.06

DEATHS from—

Cancer (all ages)	31
Measles (all ages)	Nil
Whooping Cough	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Section A

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area	124,152 Acres
Population	24,190

DEATHS. 215 deaths have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, an increase of 3 on the previous year. The death rate of 10.3 is comparable with the rate for all rural districts over the last five years.

BIRTHS. 418 births have been assigned to the district by the Registrar General, an increase of 44 on the 1955 figure and of 9 on the 1954 figure.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY. The number of infants dying under the age of one year was seven.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. No action was necessary during the year.

Section B

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich. Clerk, R. J. Cobb, Esq.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer:—Dr. J. B. EWEN, M.D., D.P.H., Croft-Holme, 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

(a) GENERAL.

- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (iv) St. James Hospital, King's Lynn. (For chronic sick).
- (v) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) MATERNITY.

- (i) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
- (ii) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
- (iii) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.

(c) INFECTIOUS.

- (i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

(d) SANATORIA.

- (i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (ii) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) MENTAL.

- (i) St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (iii) Heckingham Sanatorium, Norwich
- (iv) Little Plumstead, Norwich

3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served):—

Nurse Gerrard, Munson's Place, Feltwell, Thetford.
(Feltwell, Hockwold).

Nurse Hunns, Lower Green, Methwold, Thetford.
(Methwold).

Nurse Smith, Nurse's Cottage, Stow, King's Lynn.

(Wimbotsham, Stow, Wormegay, Sth. Runcton, Stone Cross Est.)

Nurse Porter, Nurse's Home, Nordelph.
(Downham West, Nordelph).

Nurse Harris, Nurse's House, Buckenham Drive, Stoke Ferry.
(Stoke Ferry, Whittington).

(Temporary) Nurse Smith, Nurse's Cottage, Stow.
 (Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, Wiggenhall St. Germans, Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen, Watlington, Tottenhill).
 Nurse Horn, 27, Barton Bendish, King's Lynn.
 (Marham, Shouldham. Shouldham Thorpe, Stradsett, Fincham.
 Barton Bendish).
 (Temporary) Mrs. Bunkall, The Cottage, Sluice Road, Denver.
 (Denver, Ryston, Fordham, Hilgay, Southery).
 Nurse Williams, 2, Queen's Close, Wereham.
 (Crimpleham, West Dereham, Wereham, Boughton, Wretton).
 Nurse Armilage, 62, Station Road, Middleton.
 (Setch).

(b) **MATERNITY.**

Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments
 Stow Hall Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee.

The Downham Rural Area is jointly served by the Downham Market, King's Lynn and Thetford Ambulances. Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service with effect from 1st April, 1954, was taken over by the Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

- (a) Wiggenhall St. Germans — Mrs. Richer.
- (b) Watlington — Mrs. Thomas.
- (c) Marham — Mrs. F. Brown.
- (d) Downham Market — Mrs. I. Burbeck.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) **INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.**

- (i) Downham Market
- (ii) Wimbotsham
- (iii) Methwold
- (iv) Feltwell

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Sessions.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held monthly at the following villages: Fincham, Hockwold, Hilgay, Northwold, Shouldham, Southery, Stoke Ferry, Watlington, Welney, West Dereham, Magdalen, Wormegay, St. Germans, Nordelph and Marham.

(b) **SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC.**

Local Health Office, Downham Market (Thursdays and Fridays).

(c) **HOME HELP SERVICE.**

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are at present available for the following Parishes and Villages: Feltwell, Hockwold Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Wereham, West Dereham, Stow Bridge, Watlington, Magdalen, St. Germans, Methwold, Denver, Ten Mile Bank, Southery, Hilgay, Fincham, Setch, Tottenhill, Wimbotsham, Runceton Holme and Bexwell.

7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

MALES: Tuesdays and Fridays—6 p.m.

FEMALES AND CHILDREN: Tuesdays and Wednesdays—3 p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

- (i) Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.
- (ii) Disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc., which cannot be carried out by this department, are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

9. LABORATORY SERVICES.

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. Under the direction of Dr. I. M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, Mr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., Clarence House, 6, Clarence Road, Norwich.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Section C

PREVALANCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER.

13 cases were notified.

DIPHThERIA.

No Cases were notified.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION.

This is carried out when requested at infant welfare centres and schools. The following table gives the numbers of children either primarily immunised by a full course of injections, or stimulated to maximum immunity by booster doses, during the last five years:—

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
251	191	187	226	566

PNEUMONIA.

34 cases were notified.

ERYSIPELAS.

1 case was notified.

MEASLES.

104 cases were notified and there were no deaths. Statistics of complications arising from these cases are not available.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE.

3 cases were notified.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

2 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic cases were notified, there were no deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.

3 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and there was one death. 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and there was one death. One case involved glands of the neck and was attributable to tuberculous milk.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

Nil.

Section D
STATISTICAL TABLES, 1956
Causes of Death.

Table No. 1

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2 Tuberculosis, other forms	—	—	—
3 Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	1	1	2
6 Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8 Measles	—	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10 Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11 Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	4	—	4
12 Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13 Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasms	13	9	22
15 Leukæmia	—	1	1
16 Diabetes	—	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system....	13	13	26
18 Coronary disease, angina	15	4	19
19 Hypertension with heart disease.....	3	8	11
20 Other heart diseases	15	19	34
21 Other Circulatory diseases	6	6	12
22 Influenza	1	3	4
23 Pneumonia	6	4	10
24 Bronchitis	6	4	10
25 Other diseases of the respiratory system	4	—	4
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa.....	—	2	2
28 Nephritis, Nephrosis	2	1	3
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31 Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32 Other defined and ill defined diseases..	7	18	25
33 Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
34 All other accidents	5	1	6
35 Suicide	—	3	3
36 Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes....	111	104	215

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN

Table No. 2

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR—1956.

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE IN WEEKS					Total
	1	2	3	4	5-52	
1 Congenital malformations ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 <i>Diseases of early infancy:</i>						
(a) Congenital abnormality	2	—	—	—	—	2
(b) Premature birth	1	—	—	—	—	1
(c) Injury at birth.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	1
(e) Others	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 Diseases of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	1	1
4 Diseases of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	—	1	1
6 Tuberculosis Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 Infectious Disease	—	—	—	—	1	1
8 Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
9 Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 Violence	—	—	—	—	—	—
11 All other causes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total....	4	—	—	—	3	7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1956

Table No. 3

Notification in Age Groups—

DISEASE	AGES												Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over			
Measles ...	1	5	15	13	15	43	8	1	3	—	—	—	104	—	—
Whooping C.	12	15	15	16	11	57	7	—	—	—	—	—	133	1	—
Pneumonia ...	4	—	1	1	—	2	1	2	1	3	11	8	34	4	—
Infec. Jaundice	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	4	6	1	1	—	—	—	13	—	—
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Non-Para Polio	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Paralytic Polio	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
TOTALS	18	20	31	31	28	108	22	4	7	3	11	9	292	8	—

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1956 Table No. 4

(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Measles ...	—	—	1	6	22	52	15	2	1	1	1	3	104
Whooping C.	15	13	6	30	6	8	28	10	7	3	4	3	133
Pneumonia ...	5	2	4	6	6	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	34
Infec. Jaundice	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	3	—	1	1	13
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Para Polio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Paralytic Polio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
TOTALS	22	16	11	44	36	66	46	14	14	5	9	9	292

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS—1956 Table No. 5

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non Respir.		Respiratory		Non Respir.		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—25	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
—35	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
65 & over	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		—	1	3	1	—	1	—	2

Section E

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the work of the Health Department in 1956.

Formal action under the Housing Acts against grossly unfit houses was continued with vigour, despite a substantial reduction in the number of new dwellings completed by the Council. Many of these unfit houses had, however, been empty for a number of years and could hardly be shown as part of the housing problem of the District. Nevertheless, experience has shown that such houses tend to become re-occupied and it is considered that the policy of the Council in securing demolition or control of such houses has been a very sound contribution towards the raising of the Housing Standard of the District. The bulk of such houses had been dealt with by the end of the year and future Clearance action will be governed by the rate of new house building.

The new Food Hygiene Regulations came into force during the year and your Officers gave priority to the work of enforcement. The Regulations are a great advance on previous legislation and generally, food traders are co-operating very well. All food animals known to have been slaughtered for sale in the District were thoroughly inspected.

The problem of sewage disposal in your largely unsewered district is becoming increasingly acute as the number of new properties provided with mains water increases and undoubtedly there are some serious financial problems which will have to be faced in this connection.

I again express my appreciation to Members and all Officers of the Council for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water Supply	66
Drainage and Sanitation	593
Piggeries	2
Movable Dwellings.....	30
Factories	5
Bakehouses	11
Refuse Collection and Disposal	194
Rodent Control	5
Petroleum	18
Salvage	17
Housing	1221
Meat Inspection	756
Food Premises	224
Licensed Premises	2
Milk and Dairies	10
Slaughterhouses	6
Infectious Disease	22
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	226
Total:	<hr/> 3408 <hr/>

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

145 complaints were entered in the Register, investigated and dealt with.

The complaints were mainly of unsatisfactory drainage, housing defects and smells from accumulations of refuse, manure and the keeping of animals.

Many complaints originate in neighbours quarrels.

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

NOTICES SERVED.

The number of written Notices, other than Housing Act Notices, served during the year was 90, classified as follows:—

	<i>Informal (Letters)</i>	<i>Statutory</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Complied with Notices served dur- ing 1955</i>
Housing Repairs	25	2	4	7
Drainage	18	2	11	—
Food Premises	37	—	2	—
Dirty Conditions	2	—	—	—
Water Supply	5	—	4	—
Miscellaneous	3	—	1	—
Totals ..	90	4	22	7

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

(a) General.

224 visits were made during the year a large number of these being in connection with the new Food Hygiene Regulations, which operated from 1st January, 1956. The Council sent a copy of these Regulations to every Food Trader in the District. A considerable amount of work was carried out at Food Premises in the installation of mains water, constant hot water appliances, sinks, washbasins and hygienic working surfaces and generally, the co-operation from traders was good.

Clean food handling practices required by the Regulations are more difficult to secure, but the opportunity is taken at each visit to explain the reasons behind the various requirements to management and staff and it is felt that progress is being made.

The number of licensed houses in the area continues to drop, but improvements are constantly being made in sanitary facilities at those remaining.

An improvement in the method of storage of cheese and bacon is very necessary at many general food shops.

At 31st December, there were in the District:—

- 5 Fishmongers (selling wet fish),
- 14 Fish Friers (including 3 mobile units)
- 10 Bakehouses,
- 22 Butchers Shops,
- 9 Licensed Slaughterhouses,
- 3 Cafes,
- 93 Licensed Houses,
- 3 Greengrocers,
- 124 General Food Shops,
- 5 Mobile Food Shops operating.

(b) *Ice-cream.*

Two new premises were registered during the year and one person ceased to sell. At 31st December, 1956, 60 premises were selling ice-cream, all of it being prepacked and prepared by the large companies. No manufacture of ice-cream is carried on in the District.

6 samples were taken from 3 sources and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. All were placed in the highest grade bacteriologically.

(c) *Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.*

At 31st December, there were nine private slaughterhouses licensed in the District, an additional one at Feltwell having been brought up to the Council's standard during the year. The slaughterhouse at Methwold is licensed until 31st December, 1957, whilst the rest are licensed until 31st July, 1959.

Regular slaughtering took place at 6 premises and 100% inspection of all carcasses was maintained, although regular ante-mortem inspection of animals and presence of inspectors at the time of slaughter was not possible.

Situation of premises:—

Marham — 1.	Stoke Ferry — 2.	Methwold — 1	Hilgay — 1.
Watlington — 1.	Stow Bridge — 1.	Magdalen — 1.	Feltwell — 1.

There were no complaints from the public arising out of the use of any of the slaughterhouses. Greater care is necessary in the cleansing and handling of edible offals at some premises and also in the disposal of inedible offal.

By the end of the year, the Council had decided to adopt byelaws relating to the conditions to be observed at private slaughterhouses, and also to meet the Downham Urban District Council and the Local Butchers Association to discuss slaughtering facilities in the District as a result of the White Paper on Slaughterhouses issued during the year.

Condemned meat continued to be disposed of by burial or by sale to a Knacker Dealer, after being dyed green by your Officers. Regulations prohibiting distribution of such meat until after proper sterilisation was still awaited at the end of the year.

(d) *Slaughtermen.*

The number of licensed slaughterman in the District at 31st December, 1956, was 39.

(e) Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	630	—	8	1030	1941	—
Number inspected	630	—	8	1030	1941	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	108	—	—	20	142	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.18	—	—	1.94	7.41	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	47	—	—	—	70	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	7.46	—	—	—	3.8	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

(f) *Condemned Meat.*

	lbs.
Beasts — carcase meat	1196
— head and offal	2426½
Pigs — carcase meat	770
— head and offal	1076
Sheep — offal	19
Total weight condemned ..	5487½ lbs. or 2 tons 7 cwt. approx.

It was found during the year that all or part of the livers of 13.5% of the cattle killed, were condemned due to distomatosis (live fluke). This accounted for 912 lbs of liver which amounted to a trade loss valued at £106 approx. (at wholesale price).

The following food was also condemned:— 1 6lb. tin of corned beef.

(g) *Milk and Dairies.*

At the 31st December, 1956, 6 dairies and 24 distributors were registered by the Council. One new registration was made during the year.

As regards designated milk, 13 "Dealers" Licences in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" and 12 in respect of "Pasteurised" milk were issued.

In addition, the following "Supplementary Dealers" Licences were issued to persons trading from premises in other districts:—

10 "Tuberculin Tested", 10 "Pasteurised", 3 "Sterilised".

The District does not yet form part of a "Specified Area" in which designated milk only may be sold and the hope is again expressed that such a development may not be long delayed.

During the year, the County Council staff took 143 samples of milk from Producer/Retailers and Producer/Wholesalers in the District which were submitted for biological examination for Tuberculosis. None proved positive. Laboratory facilities for *Brucella Abortus* examination having been withdrawn, none were examined for this organism.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is one licensed Knacker Yard in the District at High Street, Fincham and conditions during the year were satisfactory. Only a small business is carried on.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

The Council issued two site licences for caravans during the year, the locations being at Shouldham and Methwold Hythe. All the licences were issued subject to prescribed sanitary conditions being observed and the numbers of vans allowed was small.

About 16 licences on average were in force throughout the year in respect of individual caravans. The sanitary conditions on the sites were satisfactory.

One application for a licence was refused, on the grounds of insanitary conditions.

HOUSING.

(a) *General.*

The Council decided early in the year to build 20 more new dwellings, all bungalows, 8 at Wereham and 12 at Feltwell for slum clearance needs. The original proposals were drastically reduced in the light of the acute financial situation, a most unwelcome development to all concerned with the improvement of housing conditions.

However, 33 unfit houses were demolished, 28 formally and 5 informally, under the Housing Acts. In addition, 67 were closed and 7 repaired up to the required standard.

Quite a number of the unfit houses dealt with had been unoccupied some time, but the Council rehoused 22 families from such houses and many others secured better accommodation themselves.

Tables showing the result of Housing Act procedure since the end of the war are included at the end of this section. Formal action to secure the repair of unfit but repairable houses under the Housing Acts has not been followed as yet, although repairs have been obtained under the Public Health Act. In addition, of course, 21 Improvement Grants covering 25 dwellings were made by the Council, the sum involved being £5,799.

During the year, observations were made by the Council to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on a Provisional List of Ancient or Historic Buildings in the District, which included many old unfit cottages. Funds for the maintenance of such cottages do not seem to be available and it is difficult to see how any effective work can be done in present circumstances. Mention should be made of the substantial number of reasonably constructed but isolated farm cottages in the District which are unoccupied.

Only two applications for Certificates of Disrepair, both under the old Rent Acts, were made during the year. These were both granted and were not appealed against.

Several terraces of property were offered for sale to the Council, but purchase was being considered in the case of four cottages only at the end of the year.

It is considered that the Council might, to advantage, keep in mind the question of purchase of suitable sub-standard houses. It might be possible to bring them up to Housing Act Standard and then let them at a reasonable rent to persons who cannot afford the rent of a modern house, or who are for other reasons not suitable as tenants of a modern house.

(b) Council Houses.

PERMANENT HOUSES.

34 three bedroomed houses were completed during the year and the total of permanent post-war houses stood at 734 on the 31st December. No further houses were under construction.

A further 22 pre-war houses were modernised the facilities provided being an internal water supply, kitchen sink, water closet and cesspool drainage.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

At 31st December, 96 hutments were still in use on the Stone Cross Estate and similarly only 3 were occupied on Methwold Airfield. The Council rehoused 2 tenants from Stone Cross Estate and one from Methwold Airfield into Council houses during the year.

WAITING LISTS.

In October, 1956, an analysis of the waiting lists showed a total of 314 separate applications for accommodation as compared with 307 in 1955 and 317 in 1954. Many of these applicants occupied houses classified as unfit and incapable of economic repair, but the practice of presenting to letting Committees a separate list of all tenants of such houses, where no application had in fact been made, was adopted during the year.

The greatest apparent need for accommodation was again with Feltwell with St. Germans second and Denver third, although the higher number of unfit houses in some other parishes must be borne in mind.

No tubercular patients were rehoused. The liaison with the Officers of the Great Ouse River Board was maintained during the year.

GENERALLY.

At 31st December, the number of inhabited dwellings controlled by the Council was as follows:—

Traditional Houses:—

(a) Pre-war	420
(b) Post-war	658
Airey Prefabricated Houses, all post-war	76
Temporary Houses	99
Flats	8
Other Properties	7

Total .. 1268

(c) PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSING.

23 permanent and 8 temporary houses were completed during the year, whilst the construction of 17 permanent and 6 temporary houses had been commenced.

HOUSING ACT ACTION — 1945 — 29th JULY, 1955

	Closing Orders made	Under- takings accepted	Houses demolished formal action	Houses demolished informally	Houses repaired formal action
Boughton	1	—	—	—	—
Denver	1	—	—	1	—
Dereham West	1	—	3	1	—
Downham West incl. Salters Lode..	2	1	—	—	—
Feltwell	—	—	10	—	—
Fincham	1	—	—	—	—
Hilgay incl. Ten Mile Bank..	1	1	2	—	—
Marham	1	1	2	—	—
Methwold	2	1	1	—	—
Nordelph	—	—	—	2	—
Northwold	2	—	—	—	—
Southery	2	—	1	—	—
Shouldham	—	—	1	—	—
Stoke Ferry	—	2	—	—	1
Stow Bardolph	2	—	—	—	—
Welney	—	1	—	—	—
Wereham	2	—	1	—	—
St. Germans	—	—	1	—	—
Magdalen	—	—	—	—	—
Wretton	1	1	—	—	—
	19	8	22	4	1

HOUSING ACTS, 1936—1954.

ACTION TAKEN

PARISH	No. of Cat. 5 houses reported to Council as at 30/7/55		No. of Addit. houses placed in Cat. 5	Reduc. in No. of Cat. 5 Houses as result of Voluntary Demolition or Repairs	No. of Houses paired result of Formal Hous. A. Procedu
	Occupied	Unoccupied			
Barton Bendish	11	1	—	—	—
Boughton	5	—	—	—	—
Crimplesham	4	2	—	—	—
Denver	20	4	1	—	—
Dereham West	10	1	4	—	—
Downham West incl. Salters Lode	25	3	1	—	—
Feltwell	31	1	3	—	2
Fincham	11	4	—	—	—
Fordham	1	2	—	—	—
Hilgay incl. Ten Mile Bank	59	1	5	—	2
Hockwold	30	3	9	5	—
Marham	16	1	8	3	—
Methwold	26	11	8	—	1
Northwold	14	5	1	—	—
Nordelph	13	2	1	—	—
Ryston inc. Stone Cross	3	—	—	—	—
Runcton Holme	1	3	2	1	—
Shouldham Thorpe ..	7	—	—	1	—
Shouldham	7	2	—	1	1
Southery	36	5	1	—	1
Stoke Ferry	21	2	1	—	—
Stow Bardolph	37	4	13	6	—
Stradsett	1	1	—	1	—
Tottenham	19	—	—	—	2
Watlington	9	—	1	6	—
Welney	20	8	10	16	—
Wereham	25	6	3	1	—
Wimbotsham	8	—	1	2	—
St. Germans	24	7	5	9	—
St. Mary's	11	1	—	—	—
Magdalen	42	2	3	5	—
Wormegay	15	—	1	—	1
Wretton	26	1	—	—	—
Totals	588	83	82	57	10

TH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES 30/7/55—31/1/57

No. of Houses demolished formally	No. of Houses Demolished Informally	No. of Houses on which Formal action for Demolition pending	No. of Houses subject to Under-taking	No. of Houses subject to Closing Orders	No. of Houses subject to T. and P. Notices	Cat. 5 Houses still to be dealt with
1	1	—	—	1	—	9
—	—	—	—	—	—	5
2	—	—	—	2	—	2
—	—	—	2	2	—	21
4	—	—	2	2	—	7
1	2	—	—	1	—	25
1	1	1	—	—	—	30
1	—	—	—	3	—	11
—	—	—	—	2	—	1
—	—	3	—	4	1	55
—	3	—	—	2	2	30
—	1	3	1	5	—	12
*6	3	1	1	5	—	28
—	—	1	—	4	—	15
—	3	‡3	—	—	1	9
—	—	—	—	—	—	3
1	1	—	—	1	—	2
1	—	—	—	—	—	5
—	—	—	2	—	—	5
4	3	1	1	10	1	21
2	—	—	—	4	—	18
3	2	1	5	10	1	26
—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	1	1	—	15
—	—	—	—	2	—	2
2	—	1	1	5	1	12
4	—	2	—	8	2	17
—	—	—	1	—	—	6
—	—	—	1	11	—	15
—	1	—	—	1	—	10
—	1	1	—	4	—	36
1	1	—	—	3	—	10
2	—	6	1	1	—	17
36	23	24	19	94	9	481

* 1 converted

‡ Clearance Order

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

The collection of refuse from the "kerbside" once a fortnight was again maintained throughout the District. Some isolated properties received less frequent services.

A Circular, signed by your Medical Officer of Health, asking occupiers to co-operate by providing proper dustbins with close fitting lids was sent out during the year, but no noticeable results were apparent in the following months. The Council should keep the problem of replacement of the very unsatisfactory containers at present used constantly in mind.

Two van type moving floor vehicles were employed to collect refuse and waste paper salvage, but the open tipper truck was employed occasionally in case of breakdowns and to supplement the other vehicles at holiday times.

During the year, the Council decided to replace the open tipper truck, but to defer the replacement of the oldest van type vehicle for at least another year.

The following tips were continued in use and controlled as far as possible with available labour:—

Wimbotsham, Whittington, Shouldham, Magdalen, Hilgay, Finclem, Feltwell.

The Council authorised the use of a Contractor in the transport of tip cover owing to the almost continued use of the Council's vehicles during the year. The difficulty of keeping the tips in a reasonable condition owing to the activities of persons unknown must again be recorded. The litter baskets in various parishes were emptied when necessary.

(b) *Salvage.*

31 tons of waste paper were sent to the Mills during the year ended 31st March, 1957 and a surplus of £146 resulted. This was in spite of a reduction in the weight allowed to be sent by the Mills owing to insufficient board making machinery.

Another five year contract with the Mills was signed during the year.

Waste paper is baled by the men in their own time at specific weights per bale according to grade.

The Council decided not to collect tins and other iron and steel scrap in the District, the costs being considered out of all proportion to the value of the material collected.

(c) *Pail Emptying.*

Pail Closets were emptied once weekly during the daytime in the Parishes of Hilgay, Denver, Finclem, Downham West and Feltwell. The cost of the pail emptying service is met by a Parish Special Rate.

Disposal was effected by straw composting or direct to agricultural land.

Quite often, the Bedford tipper vehicle had to be utilised with the special reserve tank for night soil collection.

(d) *Cesspool Emptying.*

594 cesspools were emptied during the year and in addition 42 sedimentation tanks at sewage plants were desludged. Sedimentation tanks have to be desludged every three or four months.

The demand for cesspool emptying again rose and figures in respect of ordinary cesspools emptied for previous years are as follows:—

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
251	270	319	347	390	501	530

The charge for Cesspool Emptying was reviewed in June, 1956. A first charge of £2 was made to cover 2 loads, with a subsequent charge of 10/- per load. The previous charge had been £1/10/- for the first load and 10/- per load subsequently.

The Austin-Eagle Diesel Cesspool Emptier continued to function satisfactorily.

Cesspool contents were disposed of on farm land or by crude composting.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

21 sewage plants at various housing sites were maintained by your Surveyor's Department during the year and 3 new plants were completed at Hockwold, Stow Bridge and St. Germans. No new plants were under construction. A septic tank provided with sub-irrigation drains was installed at Tottenhill as a measure to prevent nuisance from an old public sewer, which discharged to a dyke, half of the cost being met by the County Council.

A much needed sewage scheme for the West Dereham Housing Site was designed and a tender accepted by the Council during the year, but final approval by the Ministry was not forthcoming owing to the restriction on Capital Expenditure. A scheme for the site at Chestnut Avenue, Welney had not yet been prepared. An advanced stage of design had been reached in the preparation of the Southery Village Sewerage Scheme.

Your Surveyor's Department conducted many experiments during the year in an effort to find a reasonably economic method of cleansing an old culverted watercourse in Feltwell. Road grit and silt had accumulated over the years and was holding back water in the open portion in "The Beck". Several new manholes were constructed to remedy the almost complete lack of access, but negotiations with the County Council's Surveyor were still proceeding on 31st December.

Discussions on the state of the Watercourse at Westgate Street, Shouldham, continued during the year without a satisfactory solution being found.

Cleansing of some dykes was undertaken by the Council to prevent serious nuisance and sub-irrigation drains had to be installed in connection with certain cesspools.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) *Main Piped Supplies.*

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for 2 sources of supply to the Rural District, viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bore at Denton Lodge, Feltwell.

I am again indebted to the Board's Engineer, Mr. J. K. Dawson, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:—

1. The water supply of the area was once again highly satisfactory in quantity and quality. The bulk supply from Ely Rural District Council to Welney has been discontinued, and this area is now supplied exclusively with the much softer Marham water.
2. None of the water supplied by the Board was plumbo-solvent.
3. All new mains were sterilized with chlorine solution, and tested bacteriologically before being put to use.
4. A small number of complaints received showed that it is felt in some quarters that overdosing of chlorine is occurring at the Board's Pumping Stations. A number of samples were examined and in no case has a genuine taste due to chlorine been found. A slight odour is occasionally present, but this is not offensive. It is not in any way harmful and in any case is very intermittent. At the Pumping Stations, chlorine dosing is governed by the flow of water leaving the stations and overdosing does not occur. Water is

pumped from varying levels at different seasons and occasionally minute traces of ammonia are present in the untreated water, which under certain special conditions, react with tiny traces of chlorine to form a harmless compound, which unfortunately has an odour which resembles what the layman considers that of chlorine to be. When this compound occurs it can be very easily removed by adding a very small crystal (the size of a match-head) of sodium thiosulphate — ordinary photographers hypo — to a 3-pint kettle of water.

5. SAMPLES TAKEN.

	<i>Bacteriological Examinations</i>			<i>Chemical Analyses</i>
	<i>No. of tests Negative</i>	<i>No. of tests Positive</i>	<i>Total taken</i>	
<hr/>				
BOARD'S WORKS.				
Treated Water	340	2	342	
Raw Water	157	17	174	
CONSUMERS' TAPS	81	Nil	81	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals . .	478	19	597	124
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total all examinations and analyses 721

The differential tests on the positive bacteriological tests showed combinations of the following organisms:—

B. Coli Type I., B. Aerogenes Type I., B. Aerogenes Type II.,
Intermediate Type I., Intermediate Type II.

Treated water samples over the whole of the Downham Rural District were 99.5% negative on examinations for organisms of the coliform group. This represents the highest standard of bacterial purity.

WILLIAM D. BRIGHTON, B.Sc. (Dunelm),

Chemist and Bacteriologist.

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Water Examination Laboratory

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 10.30 4/12/56

Lab. No. D 981

Labelled Tap. Laboratory, 12, South Brink

Taken by W. D. Brighton

Date and time 10.30 4/12/56

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Colonies on Yeastrel agar per ml.	Presumptive coliform count.
1 day at 37°C Nil	Absent from 100 mls.
2 days at 37°C Nil	Bact. coli (Type I faecal)
3 days at 22°C Nil	Absent from 100 mls.

2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Appearance Clear and bright	ph. 7.3
Turbidity Nil	Odour Normal
Colour Nil	Taste Normal

3. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS expressed as parts per million.

Free CO ₂ 15	Aluminium (Al) Nil
Oxygen dissolved 10.4 (8°C)	Calcium (Ca)..... 102
Oxygen absd. (4hrs. at 37°C) 0.11	Iron (Fe) 0.01
Nitrogen Ammoniacal 0.01	Magnesium (Mg) 3.14
Nitrogen Albuminoid 0.027	Manganese (Mn) Nil
Nitrogen Nitrate 9.10(39.2 as NO ₃)	Lead (Pb) Nil
Nitrogen Nitrite Nil	Sodium (Na)..... 10.5
Alkalinity 192	Zinc (Zn) Nil
Hardness Carbonate 192	Silica (SiO ₂) 5.0
Hardness Non-carbonate 73	Sulphate (S.O. ₄) 27.8
Hardness Total 265	Carbonate (CO ₃) 115
Free Chlorine trace	Chloride (Cl) 27.7
Total Solids (180°C) 352	Fluoride (F)Not Examined

4. GENERAL REMARKS.

The above results indicate a water, pure and wholesome in character, on the alkaline side of neutrality, of moderate hardness but with no excess of mineral constituents in solution. It is suitable as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

WILLIAM D. BRIGHTON, B.Sc. (Dunelm),

Chemist and Bacteriologist.

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Water Examination Laboratory

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 12.30 2/1/57

Lab. No. D 1084

From Denton Lodge Pumping Station

Labelled Denton Lodge Raw Water

Taken by W. D. Brighton

Date and time 11.15 2/1/57

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Colonies on Yeastrel agar per ml.	Presumptive coliform count.
Not Examined	Absent from 100 ml.
	Bact. coli (Type I faecal)
	Absent from 100 ml.

2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Appcarance Clear and bright	ph. 7.3
Turbidity Nil	Odour Normal
Colour Nil	Taste Normal

3. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS expressed as parts per million.

Free CO ₂ N.E.	Aluminium (Al) Nil
Oxygen dissolved N.E.	Calcium (Ca) 75.3
Oxygen absd. (4hrs. at 37°C) 0.07	Iron (Fe) Nil
Nitrogen Ammoniacal 0.016	Magnesium (Mg) 2.18
Nitrogen Albuminoid 0.02	Manganese (Mn) Nil
Nitrogen Nitrate 5.3 (23.0 as NO ₃)	Lead (Pb) Nil
Nitrogen Nitrite Nil	Sodium (Na) (calc) 4.23
Alkalinity 163	Zinc (Zn) Nil
Hardness Carbonate 163	Silica (SiO ₂) 5.00
Hardness Non-carbonate 33	Sulphate (S.O. ₄) 6.42
Hardness Total 196	Carbonate (CO ₃) 97.8
Free Chlorine Nil	Chloride (Cl) 13.5
Total Solids (180°C) 235	Fluoride (F) Not Examined

4. GENERAL REMARKS.

The sample was clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from injurious metals. The water is only of moderate hardness and contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water, suitable for public supply purposes.

WILLIAM D. BRIGHTON, B.Sc. (Dunelm),

Chemist and Bacteriologist.

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Water Examination Laboratory

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 16.30 13/9/56

Lab. No. 666

From River Nar

Labelled River Nar Untreated Raw Water

Taken by W. D. Brighton

Date and time 15.00 13/9/56

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Colonies on Yeastrel agar per ml.	Presumptive coliform count.
1 day at 37°C Thousands	1,800 - 2,000/100 ml.
2 days at 37°C Thousands	Bact. coli (Type I faecal)
3 days at 22°C Thousands	1,500/100 ml.

2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Appearance	ph. 8.2
Turbidity Sl turbid	Odour Sl fishy
Colour 15 Hazen	Taste —

3. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS expressed as parts per million

Free CO ₂ 2	Aluminium (Al) Nil
Oxygen dissolved 12.1	Calcium (Ca) 95.3
Oxygen absd. (4hrs. at 37°C) 1.49	Iron (Fe) 0.075
Nitrogen Ammoniacal 0.032	Magnesium (Mg) 4.28
Nitrogen Albuminoid 0.144	Manganese (Mn) Nil
Nitrogen Nitrate 8.5 (36.8 p.p.m. as NO ₃)	Lead (Pb) Nil
Nitrogen Nitrite 0.01	Sodium (Na) 19.9
Alkalinity 219	Zinc (Zn) Nil
Hardness Carbonate 219	Silica (SiO ₂) 7.0
Hardness Non-carbonate 33	Sulphate (S.O. ₄) 16.1
Hardness Total 252	Carbonate (CO ₃) 133
Free Chlorine Nil	Chloride (Cl) 23.8
Total Solids (180°C) 324	Fluoride (F) N.E.

4. GENERAL REMARKS.

For a river derived sample this water is of good quality. It is amenable to treatment and after such treatment will be suitable for public supply purposes.

WILLIAM D. BRIGHTON, B.Sc. (Dunelm),
Chemist and Bacteriologist.

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Schedule of work carried out in the Downham Rural District
between the 1st January, 1956 and the 31st December, 1956.

NEW MAINS LAID

School Lane, Marham (renewal)	3in. S.I.	310 yards
Garage Lane, Setch	2in. A.C.	281 yards
Tottenham — King's Lynn — Stoke Ferry Road	3in. S.I.	40 yards
Colgate Lane, Magdalen	2in. A.C.	387 yards
Fincham — Boughton Extension	4in. S.I.	2040 yards
Great Ouse Flood Protection Scheme, St. Germans Bridge	9in. S.I.	372 yards
Downham Rural Agricultural Extension Scheme, Scheme No. 10 Salters Lode	3in. S.I.	12 yards

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

New Supplies — Downham Rural District

January, 1956 — December, 1956

Barton Bendish	9	Southery	6
Bexwell	2	South Functon	2
Boughton	1	Stoke Ferry	5
Crimplesham	1	Stow Bardolph	8
Denver	4	Tottenham	3
Downham West	3	Watlington	9
Feltwell	7	Welney	19
Fincham	3	Wereham	10
Hilgay	13	West Dereham	17
Hockwold	7	Wiggenhall St. Germans	1
Marham	13	Wiggenhall St. Mary Mag.	8
Methwold	15	Wimbotsham	8
Northold	3	Wretton	1
Saddlebow	1		
Setch	2		
Shouldham	5		
		Total ..	191

SMALL WATER SUPPLIES.

13 samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year from 8 sources and those from 4 proving satisfactory. In one case mains water was laid on and in a second a mains supply was being negotiated. In the remaining two cases the wells were cleaned out and the occupants advised to boil all water as it was impossible to secure a mains supply.

A request was made for a sample to be taken for lead content, following a number of unexplained illnesses in a family. Two samples were taken, one of water which had stood in the pipes all night and one after a considerable quantity had been drawn off; both proved negative.

The County Council's policy of examining water supplies from wells which might be used for infant feeding, to determine the nitrate content, was continued during the year. Four samples were submitted and three were considered satisfactory. In the remaining case a satisfactory alternative supply was obtained.

FACTORIES.

At 31st December, there were in the District 56 factories where mechanical power was employed and 4 factories with no mechanical power. 7 inspections were made during the year.

An adequate sanitary block was provided on request by one Factory Owner and no other official action was deemed necessary.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The Council continued to provide free treatment or advice to domestic premises in the District, whilst business, including agricultural premises, were charged at the rate of 7/- per hour.

Warfarin was the main poison used and zinc phosphide was used occasionally. Liaison was continued with the Pest Control Staff of the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee.

The Rodent Operative made 2912 visits for all purposes and a total of 602 separate treatments were carried out (461 treatments in 1953, 751 in 1954, 645 in 1955).

50% of the cost of the service, after deduction of income from treatment at business premises is recoverable from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. SENNITT,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

